

From the pastors' desk

<God is in it with us >

I have read a testimony sometime ago. It was about a brother named Randy who was stranded in the desert and how he experienced God's help in an unexpected way.

While on a two-year trip around the world in a Volkswagen camper, Randy was stranded in the Sahara Desert for several days. The Hoggar is an area in Algeria where the Sahara stretches; it is a harsh landscape. The punishing terrain caused two shock absorbers in the camper to explode simultaneously, breaking the chassis. After sitting for three days, he saw a traveler pull up behind him in a small van. On the roof of his vehicle, he had some welding equipment. Unfortunately, neither the traveler nor he knew how to weld, and he had no welding rod. Randy prayed and then remembered the steel coat hangers he had packed away. With a torch on one and a coat hanger in the other, he climbed under the camper and somehow managed to weld the broken chassis back in place.

What touches me about this is that Randy discovered the man with the welding outfit had started his journey in the desert long after his own, but before his crisis had occurred. This reminded him of the word of God in Isaiah 65:24. The Lord says, "Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear."

Years ago, I heard a missionary couple from Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso) shared their experiences in the mission field. The missionary met an old man there. What surprised him was that the old man told him, God had promised to send someone to tell them about Him 15 years ago while he was still a teenager, he did not know God would send him to Upper Volta in 15 years. More amazing is his wife shared that God told her to bring a wedding gown before she left for the mission field, while she met her husband there later.

There have been countless times I have seen God's presence and help in my life. We never know what crisis or difficulties might lie ahead or what will happen in front of us. But by faith, we can know that God is on the way even before we call. Let us put our trust in Him. No matter what difficulty we will face, God is in it with us.

曾讀到一位弟兄名叫 Randy 的見證，分享他在駕著野營車環遊世界時的一次被困於撒哈拉沙漠的經歷。當他正在沿著霍加爾路徑，在阿爾及利亞橫越撒哈拉沙漠時，那段路徑極為崎嶇不平，在路上駕車簡直就像在火車軌上奔馳。嚴峻的路面狀況令野營車的兩個減震器同時爆裂，擊破了車的底盤，他被困在那裡足足三天。其後，一輛小貨車在他的車後停下來，貨車的車頂上竟然有一套完備的接焊工具。可是，那人和他自己也不懂得接焊(燒焊)，也沒有接焊棒。Randy 便禱告，然後他記起，在行李箱中有一個鋼鐵制的衣架。他在毫無經驗下拿著電筒和衣架趴在車底，左弄右弄的竟把爆裂的車底焊接上，車子便能開動了。

Randy 在後來才知道，令他很受感動的是，自己已進入沙漠很久，那帶著接焊工具的人是在他發生意外之後才起行的，卻在他需要幫助時及時遇上。這事令他想起聖經的話：“他們尚未求告，我就應允；正說話的時候，我就垂聽。”(賽 65:24)

在我就讀神學院時，聽到一對前往非洲宣教的夫婦分享。夫婦二人分別在不同地方到上沃爾特(現稱 Burkina Faso)宣教，並在宣教工場認識。奇妙的是，神卻在這位姊妹在出發到工場前指示她，要帶同婚紗到上沃爾特，在其後遇到弟兄，並成為她的丈夫。她丈夫也分向見證：在工場曾接觸一位長者，這位長者對他說：“我知道你會來，因為在 15 年前，神已告訴我，祂會差派一個人來，教導他們認識神的話。”。令他十分驚奇的是，原來在 15 年前，在他還是青少年時期，對自己前途一無所知的時候，神已早有計劃。

在我的身上，也曾經歷神數不盡的奇妙恩典。其實神的手一直在帶領及引導著我們的人生，在每天的大小事上向我們施恩，只是我們常不察覺，或沒有留意。要知道，無論有甚麼事發生，在我們尚不曉得為自己祈求以先，神早有預備。讓我們信靠神去面對未可知的前路，放心將一切交在祂手中，祂知我們的需要，祂的預備和安排必定是最好的！